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## On *Podabrus parvicollis* Motschulsky<sup>1</sup> (Coleoptera: Cantharidae)

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This is an attempt to ascertain and explain what Motschulsky had when he defined his *Podabrus parvicollis*. For some reason past students have neglected it entirely or assigned it as the synonym of the first species available, without much seeming interest in what species he actually possessed.

Motschulsky (1859) described *Podabrus parvicollis* from Pennsylvania, offering a number of salient features: Pronotum transverse, narrowed in front and margined with pale testaceous; elytra widened apically, the costae distinct; the knees yellowed on all the feet.

LeConte (1881) placed *P. parvicollis* as a synonym of *Podabrus diadema* Fabricius, with no indicated reason.

Leng (1920) followed LeConte apparently accepting his (1881) work.

Fall (1928), in a systematic review of *Podabrus*, neglected to recognize a number of names previously placed in synonymy, although he resurrected a few. Among those he neglected was *P. parvicollis*.

Green (1947) showed the impropriety of association of *P. parvicollis* with either *P. diadema* or *Podabrus planulus* Green, neither of which have ever been seen with pale knees. He apparently never pursued the problem further, sort of leaving *P. parvicollis* in the state of limbo.

As stated by Green, no specimen of either *P. diadema* or *P. planulus* has

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ever been seen in which the knees are yellowish. Too, neither of these species has the pronotum appreciably narrowed anteriorly, nor the elytra widened apically and the costae more distinct.

I have representatives of two species of *Podabrus* in which the knees are yellowish. One is an undescribed species in which the pronotum is not appreciably narrowed anteriorly, the elytra not apically widened and the costae not more distinct than usual. These things remove this species from consideration.

*Podabrus rugosulus* LeConte (*P. rugulosus* of Leng and Fall) has the pronotum notably narrowed, the elytra widened apically and the costae rather strongly marked. The legs are more often than not black but may have some portion thereof pale (i. e., yellowish). In a large random selection from the American Museum of Natural History, the following ratios occurred: Legs all black (52%); knees of all feet yellowish (13%); all knees yellowish and protibiae light brown (10%); knees, tarsi, and protibiae pale (3%); knees of prolegs pale (2%); all knees and tarsi and tibiae of front and middle legs pale (2%); all knees, protibiae, and protarsi pale (2%); protibiae and protarsi pale (2%); prolegs pale brown (2%); profemora, protibiae, and basal segments of tarsi pale (2%); knees, protibiae, basal two protarsal segments, and antennae pale (1%); protibiae and apical two-thirds of profemora pale (1%); protibiae and apical third of profemora pale (1%); all knees and prolegs beneath pale (1%); knees of prolegs only pale (1%).

The group with the legs bicolored seems to be most abundant in the Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey area although not necessarily confined thereto. Black-legged specimens are found throughout these three states. Nine specimens from Connecticut all had black legs. Specimens from Maine were all black legged. Eleven specimens from Black Mountains, North Carolina had the legs all black while one had all the knees pale.

The second group (all knees yellowish) is, I am certain, what Motschulsky must have had before him and called *P. parvicollis*. Hence that name should be removed as a synonym of *P. diadema* and made a synonym of *P. rugosulus*.

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